

SERMON: The Key of Knowledge

Intro: In the Bible, wisdom and knowledge are closely connected. It is important that we understand the difference to know how important each concept is to us as Christians.

1. The difference in Wisdom and Knowledge!

Wisdom in the Bible – Ecclesiastes 2:26, 1 Kings 4:29, 1 Kings 10:24, 1 Chronicles 22:12, Ezra 7:25, Daniel 1:17, Romans 11:33, Ephesians 3:8-13, Proverbs 2:6. James tells us, along with all the previous verses, that wisdom is a gift that can only be obtained from God (James 1:2-5). Guy N Woods – “The ability to see great blessings in sore trials is not an inherit one, and must, therefore be acquired. It is quite significant that James did not say, “But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him study philosophy, or, let him meditate, or, let him consult the wise.” The wisdom which we need, and must have, to turn our trials into triumphs is available only from God. WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE are different but we need both!

- **Wisdom** – the ability to judge soundly and deal sagaciously with facts, esp. as they are related to life and conduct; discernment and judgment; discretion.
- **Knowledge** – Acquaintance with fact; hence, the scope of information.

Guy N Woods – “knowledge is thus the possession of facts; wisdom the ability of judging soundly and correctly regarding them. Knowledge is obtained only through study, wisdom is a gift of God. One whose desire is to learn mathematical principles would not resort to prayer but to textbooks dealing therewith; one who desire the divine wisdom must get down on his knees.”

Knowledge in the Bible – 2 Chronicles 30:22, Psalm 119:66, Proverbs 12:1, Romans 10:2, Philippians 1:9, 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 1 Timothy 6:20. Wisdom should be obtained through prayer, which warrants the question, HOW DO I GET KNOWLEDGE?

2. How do I get knowledge? Knowledge can only come from two (2) places: The word (scripture), or The world (Society). It is clearly evident that we must consult the right source to be right religiously.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 gives a clear insight in obtaining knowledge.

- Doctrine – teaches me what is right.
- Reproof – teaches me when I am not right.
- Correction – teaches me how to get right.
- Instruction in Righteousness – teaches me how to stay right

2 Peter 1:2-4, 16-21 teaches me where the inspired word came from (namely holy men who were moved by the spirit [His divine power – verse 3] to record God’s words)

3. How do I use it? In obtaining knowledge, I have to do something with that knowledge. Specifically, I have to grow as a Christian. Hebrews 5:12-14—We should be growing from milk to solid food.

Examples of growth – Luke 2:52, 2 Peter 1:5, 2 Peter 3:18, Colossians 1:9-10, 2 Timothy 2:15. Do not forget: Ephesians 4:13-14, 1 John 2:15, James 4:4.

Joshua M. Posey—Lineville Church of Christ, Lineville, AL

SERMON: What the Bible says about GRACE!

TEXT: Titus 2:11-12

Intro: Grace is mentioned 38 times in the OT—128 in the NT.

1. We are saved by Grace through Faith (Eph. 2:8).
2. We are to stand in Grace (Rom. 5:1-2).
3. We proclaim the Gospel of God’s Grace (Acts 20:24).
4. We must grow in Grace (2 Peter 3:18).
5. We are living in days of Grace (Eph. 3:2).
6. We must abound in God’s Grace (2 Cor. 9:8).
7. We must speak with Grace (Eph. 4:29).

Pulpit Preview is sent for the purpose of sharing sermon ideas & useful illustrations. It is sent via email each month. Editor: Mark N. Posey D.D., preaching minister for the Austinville Church of Christ (2833 Danville Rd. SW Decatur, AL 35603) since 1994. Please send all comments to—pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org or address above. **Thanks, MNP.**

PULPIT PREVIEW

April 27, 2017 ● Vol. 9, No. 4



SERMON: Music in Worship!

TEXT: Hebrews 13:15; John 4:23-25; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.

Intro: Scripture is sufficient to tell us God’s will for worship. We must not add to or subtract from God’s Word (e.g., Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Rev. 22:18-19). Everything we do in worship must be divinely warranted and since Scripture is the sufficient Word of God, everything we do in worship must be prescribed there.

1. What do we find in the NT during the time of Apostolic Doctrine concerning vocal music? Cf. Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Hebrews 2:12; 13:15; James 5:13.
2. Singing isn’t an option; it is a command (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). When God’s people sing, they are doing what is asked of them. Paul emphasized faithful Christian behavior “in word or deed” done “in the name of the Lord” (Col. 3:17). It was used this way to signify the Lord’s authority. Thus, the practice of vocal singing is operating in the realm of Christ’s Divine Instructions!
3. Why do Christian NOT use mechanical instruments in their worship and praise to God? Is it because of poverty? No, God’s people are blessed with material goods and generous givers. Is it because inability? No, God’s people are extremely talented. Is it because of dislike? No, God’s people love music. Thus, why? The reason is simple: There is no authority for the use of a mechanical instrument in Christian worship in the New Testament! We do, however, find ample authority for Singing (1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)!
4. The authority for vocal music in Christian Worship is both by Direct Command (Hebrews 13:15; James 5:13; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16) and Apostolic Example (Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; 1 Corinthians 14:15); however, some respect the authority in the New Testament & some do not! Christians must obey!
5. Furthermore, Matthew 28:20 and Acts 2:42 are of great important! The followers of Jesus are responsible to present the whole counsel of God to those who are made disciples and baptized. Teaching new converts includes teaching them about true worship; worship that involves prayer, preaching, giving, partaking of the Lord’s Supper and singing. Practices of the NT Church were in accordance with Jesus’ commands and the Apostles doctrine. Jesus & Apostles authorized ONLY vocal music. Each NT Church practiced ONLY vocal music. Thus, we must strive to worship today as the Christians worshiped in the 1st century AD.

Conclusion: Let us continue to worship as the 1st century Church did and as the New Testament authorizes us to do! Let us strive to worship in song as the Lord prescribed and be pleasing in His sight!

- Mark N. Posey

SERMON: Successful Daily Living!

TEXT: Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Intro: True Christian contentment can only be achieved in Christ!

1. Be Positive - **I can** do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
2. Be Passionate - I can **do all things** through Christ who strengthens me.
3. Be Purposeful - I can do all things **through Christ** who strengthens me.
4. Be Powerful - I can do all things through Christ who **strengthens me**.

Con: 1 Timothy 6:6 says, “Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”

SERMON: God’s Amazing Grace!

TEXT: Titus 2:11-12; Romans 12:1

Intro: The Grace of God is one of the most important things in the Bible!

1. God’s Amazing Grace Reaches Me: “*the grace of God has appeared to all men*” (Tit 2:11).
2. God’s Amazing Grace Leeches Me: “*teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust*” (Tit 2:12a).
3. God’s Amazing Grace Teaches Me: “*we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world*” (Tit 2:12b).
4. God’s Amazing Grace Beseeches Me: “*I beseech you therefore by the mercies of God*” (Rom 12:1).

Conclusion: Remember the song – Amazing Grace: “Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch life me!” Cf. Acts 20:32.

SERMON: Devil’s Device.

TEXT: 2 Cor. 2:11; 11:3

1. Sin Devastates human lives.
2. Sin Distorts the truth.
3. Sin Divides the Church.
4. Sin Dominates the world.
5. Sin Destroys the soul.

SERMON: Salvation

TEXT: Hebrews 5:8-9

1. The WAY of Salvation: Grace.
2. The CONTENT of Salvation: Justification, Regeneration & Sanctification.
3. The CONDITIONS of Salvation: Faith, Repentance, Confession & Baptism.
4. The ASSURANCE of Salvation: Hope.

SERMON: Saved by Grace through Faith!

TEXT: Titus 2:11-13

Intro: Titus 2:11-13 is rich in instruction, none so important as the TENSE of the verbs: past, present and future.

1. Titus 2:11 – Past Tense. Justification – redeems us.
2. Titus 2:12 – Present Tense. Sanctification – reforms us.
3. Titus 2:13 – Future Tense. Glorification – rewards us.

Con: “Expectant looking is the antidote for apathetic living!”

SERMON: The Demands of Grace!

TEXT: Titus 2:12

Intro: God’s grace instructs and demands. The requirements of grace are both negative and positive.

1. NEGATIVE: The negative demand is to leave unholy practices behind, such as, ungodliness and worldly lusts. Cf. 1 John 2:15-17.
2. POSITIVE: The positive demand is to embrace a lifestyle of Holy Living – with such practices as, sober living (good, clear mind), righteous living (doing those things that are right) and godly living (striving to be like God).

Con: Christianity is a lifestyle; a lifestyle of holy and godly living.

Our Greatest Need...

1. If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.
2. If our greatest need had been technology – scientist.
3. If our greatest need has been money – economist.
4. If our greatest need had been pleasure – entertainer.
5. But our greatest need was forgiveness – so God sent us a Savior.

SERMON: God’s Grace!

TEXT: Ephesians 2:8

1. God’s Grace Sustains me.
2. God’s Grace Restrains me.
3. God’s Grace Constrains me.
4. God’s Grace Ingrains me.
5. God’s Grace Retrains me.

SERMON: I Love you with the Love of the Lord!

TEXT: 2 Peter 3:1-2, 8, 14, 17

Intro: There are four “beloved” statements in 2 Peter 3 which summarize what Peter wanted to get across as he brought his second letter to a close. The word beloved (*agapetos*) means, “esteemed, dear, worthy of love.” Cf. Matt. 22:37-39; 1 Peter 1:18-25; John 13:34-35.

1. “**Beloved...be mindful**” (3:1-2). Peter knew the importance of reminding his readers of the importance of the message of scripture. Thus, he used repetition to infuse the message into their mind. He even provided for preservation of the message even after he was gone.
2. “**Beloved, be not ignorant**” (3:8). Peter wanted his readers to understand the vast difference in the human method of thinking and the way God thinks. He employed Psalm 90:4 to illustrate the principle.
3. “**Beloved...be diligent**” (3:14). If our heart, mind, soul and strength are set of the New Heavens and New earth, our conduct will reflect that priority. Diligent Christian living anticipates a better place, people and position.
4. “**Beloved...beware**” (3:17). We that look, long and love the coming of the Day of the Lord must conduct ourselves in a holy and godly manner. In doing do, we will maintain faithfulness, dedication and commitment to right living. We will abide in Jesus and He will abide in us.

Conclusion: Peter’s love for his readers was deeper than mere friendship or companionship; it was deep, wide, long and high. Peter loved them so much that he did not hesitate to teach them the truth, confront false teachers and remind them of Jesus’ return!

SERMON: Living like a “LAST DAYS” Christian should live!

TEXT: 2 Peter 3:1-18

Introduction: Peter seeks to wake his reader’s “pure minds” to the dangers of phony leaders who claimed to be Christians. He also reminds them of a day that will destroy all of creation. Thus, growth in grace and knowledge are indispensable.

1. **ASSURANCE of Jesus’ return (3:1-9).**

- The Word of the Lord is correct (3:1-4).
- The Work of the Lord is consistent (3:5-7).
- The Will of the Lord is compassionate (3:8-9).

2. **ACTION of Jesus’ return (3:10).**

- HEAVENS: “the heavens will pass away with a great noise” (3:10a, 12b).
- ELEMENTS: “the elements shall melt with fervent heat” (3:10b, 12c).
- EARTH: “the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (3:10c).

3. **APPEAL in light of Jesus’ return (3:11-18).**

- Be diligent to live godly lives (3:11-14).
- Be diligent to win lost souls (3:15-16).
- Be diligent to grow spiritually (3:17-18).

Conclusion: In light of this chapter, consider that which we need to remember most!

- Grow in knowledge & understanding of the Day of Judgment (3:7).
- Grow in knowledge & understanding of what causes religious error (3:1-16).
- Grow in knowledge & understanding of what produces repentance (3:8-10).
- Grow in knowledge & understanding of Jesus’ second coming (3:10).
- Grow in knowledge & understanding about spiritual growth (3:18).